

# STORIES BEHIND THE STATISTICS.

## COMMUNITY PREVENTION IN BORMUKULI

Bormukuli is a tiny, pretty little village situated near the mountains bordering Bhutan. Bormukuli is over 37 kilometres from the nearest town, Udalguri. It is also the place where the most remote STOP THE TRAFFIK group operates. Travel to town is rare and the main occupation of the people is subsistence agriculture. Attracted by the lure of a different future and the possibility of money and education, a number of young people from the village had 'migrated' and never returned. 'Agents' had come to the village and tempted these families into the trap, which we know as human trafficking. These people were not migration or job agents but human traffickers.

The team at STOP THE TRAFFIK India ran some workshops to raise awareness about human trafficking in the Bormukuli area. When the church leaders in the Catholic Church realized what was happening they started monitoring migration and acting as a vigilance body to prevent trafficking. They then organized themselves into a Village Child Protection Committee, and organised clubs for children in school, and school drop-outs. If young people want to leave Bormukuli, there are now workshops and counselling sessions so that they will be fully aware of traps and difficulties.

**IN A MATTER OF A COUPLE OF YEARS, BORMUKULI HAS STEMMED THE STREAM OF YOUNG PEOPLE BEING TRAFFICKED FROM THEIR VILLAGE.**

## TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SUPPORT IN THE UK

Jenny was exploited by older men from the age of 13. Her elderly neighbour groomed her with kindness, lifts to school and presents. Her home life was difficult and her father absent, so Jenny appreciated this treatment but then felt obliged to reciprocate with sexual favours when her neighbour demanded them. Aged 16, the neighbour introduced Jenny to a gang of men, telling her that he owed them money and she could help him. They forced Jenny to have sex with different men under threat of her safety and that of her family. Over the years Jenny was beaten, stabbed with a coat hanger, introduced to diazepam and forced into addiction, transferred from one gang to another and subject to an attempted sham marriage.

Jenny finally escaped in 2014 following an incident involving the gang dousing her in petrol and attempting to set her alight. Jenny was then introduced to the Salvation Army who took her to a safe house. Traumatized by her experiences Jenny was extremely grateful that the Salvation Army stuck with her in helping her resolve her difficulties.

**TODAY JENNY FINALLY FEELS FREE FROM THE GRASP OF HER TRAFFICKERS; SHE WANTS TO WORK AND LIVE A NORMAL LIFE. JENNY IS LIVING IN MOVE-ON ACCOMMODATION, SUPPORTED BY A CHARITY IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND.**

**TO HEAR JENNY'S STORY IN HER OWN WORDS CLICK [HERE](#). THE PASSWORD FOR THIS FILM IS FREEDOM.**

## RESCUED THROUGH COURT ACTION IN TAMIL NADU

Ms. A. J., aged 19, was taken from her parents by a trafficker to a mill and was told by the management that she would get Rs.30000 after completing a three year contract. She was not paid a monthly salary but was provided with food and lodging.

Ms A.J. was beaten with leather belts by the management if she refused to work, had no money or means of

communication and could not escape from the mill premises. On hearing the issue and how employees were being physically and sexually harassed, the SAVE team visited the mill and managed to meet Ms. A. J. The owner of the mill would not release Ms A.J. as she had only worked for a year. There were around 150 girls at the mill in the 14 to 21 age group employed under the Sumangali scheme.

**SAVE FILED A PETITION IN COURT TO RELEASE MS A.J AND ON HEARING THE COMPLAINTS AND THE EVIDENCE PRODUCED, THE COURT SET HER FREE. THE COURT THEN SUGGESTED SHE FILE ANOTHER CASE TO CLAIM COMPENSATION AND HER SALARY.**

**STOP THE TRAFFIK HAVE CREATED A POWERFUL FILM ENTITLED SUMANGALI - YOU MAY WISH TO SHOW A CLIP FROM THE FILM DURING YOUR SERVICE. TO DOWNLOAD THE FULL FILM CLICK [HERE](#). TO DOWNLOAD A SHORTER VERSION OF THE FILM, CLICK [HERE](#).**

## **HOPE FOR THE FUTURE IN CAMBODIA**

Sokha and Makara are from Poipet in Cambodia. Aged 14 and 15 years old, their mother became ill and the family needed money to pay for treatment. A man promised good jobs for the girls in nearby Thailand, and offered the family some money to take them. Sokha and Makara were excited to help the family with the money they earned.

The reality turned out to be very different. The man was a trafficker. There were no 'good jobs' for the girls in Thailand. Sokha says, 'I felt cheated. The traffickers used us for slave jobs, and while they earned lots of money, we only got enough to feed ourselves each day.'

**SOKHA AND MAKARA'S PARENTS MET WITH CAMBODIAN HOPE ORGANISATION (CHO) THAT WORKS WITH TEARFUND, A RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY. CHO FOUND AND RESCUED THE GIRLS ABOUT A YEAR AFTER THEIR ORDEAL STARTED. WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY HOPE FOR IN THE FUTURE, SOKHA SAYS TO SET UP HER OWN SEWING BUSINESS AND EMPLOY AND HELP GIRLS IN HER SITUATION. 'WE WERE SCARED ALL THE TIME IN THAILAND,' SHE SAYS. 'NOW I'M HAPPY, GETTING SUPPORT, LIVING WITH MY FAMILY AND FREE TO WORK WHEN I WANT.'**